I have always loved cute things.
Ooh!
Waah!
WOW, WHAT A CUTE BRACELET!!
The horses form a line!!
THEY'RE RACING HORSES,
YOU SEE? THEY EACH HAVE A RIDER.
Cuuute!!
Waah! Everything is so cute.
Kya.
BOOM
AH, SORRY.
Yikes

AH.
HUH?
KARATSU-SAN? FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.
ORIBE-SAN...
OOH! ARE YOU BUYING THAT? HOW CUTE!
...AH.

I-I'M NOT!!
FWUM
blush
SOME-THING LIKE THIS
DOESN'T SUIT ME AT ALL.
EH?
BYE!!
TWA
WHAT WAS THAT?
.....
Thank you, come again

カラス濡れ羽にひかりもの
A CROW WITH A GLISTENING TRINKET IN HER JET BLACK FEATHERS

WHOA, CHECK OUT ORIBE-SAN'S SWEATER! THAT COLOR!
SCHOOL REGULATIONS MAY BE LOOSE, BUT...
YOU GOTTA BE CRAZY TO WEAR PINK.
MAYBE BEIGE, BUT THIS...
THE OTHER DAY, TOO...
whisper
Whatever, let me wear what I like.
Girls can be so annoying.
rattle
If you don't like it, just ignore it.
Ooh, there's a sale!
GOOD MORNIIING.
AH!
KARATSU-SAN, GOOD MORNING! ABOUT YES-TERDAY...
Walk
!
SHOCK

EH?
KARATSU-SAN?
ORIBE-SAN, COME WITH ME FOR A SECOND!
WHAT?
COME!
PULL
...GEEZ.
WHAT IS IT? PULLING ME OUT HERE?
S-SORRY.
ERR. UHM...
PLEASE...
FORGET ABOUT YESTER-DAY!
BOW
DON'T TELL ANYONE!!
HM?

HUH? FORGET WHAT?
YOU MEAN, THAT YESTER-DAY...
BLUSH
YOU WORE A FLOWER?
GH!
Oh my.
How cute...
IT WAS JUST ON IMPULSE, I MEAN...
I WANTED TO TRY WEARING IT...
BUT I DON'T REALLY LIKE THOSE THINGS, I MEAN...
THOSE CUTE THINGS DON'T SUIT ME AT ALL.
HUH? I THOUGHT IT LOOKED GOOD ON YOU.

rustle
THE FLOWER WAS TOO EXPENSIVE, BUT...
THEY HAD THIS CUTE HAIRPIN.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU, KARATSU-SAN.
HUH!?
WELL, I GUESS YOU WON'T LIKE THIS, THEN...
I WON'T TELL ANYONE.
SORRY, FOR SUD-DENLY DOING THIS.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, JUST THROW IT OUT.
FOR ME...?
ding dong
AH, HOME ROOM'S STARTING.
UHM...
I HAVE TO HURRY...
I'M ALWAYS SO GIDDY...
I GUESS SOMEONE MIGHT ASK WHAT IT WAS YESTERDAY...
BUT YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER.

run run
SEE YA!
A hairpin.
rustle
rip...

.....
Ding
Dong
Ding
Dong
PHEW! IT'S OVER!

COULD WE...
HUH?
WALK HOME TOGETHER TODAY!?
ORIBE-SAN!!
I'm gonna check the shoe store!
UHM, SORRY IF I'M A BURDEN.
...WHAT A SURPRISE!
NOT AT ALL! IT WAS UNEXPECTED, BUT IT MADE ME HAPPY.
I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU'D COME TO ME.
I'D BE EVEN HAPPIER IF YOU WORE THE HAIRPIN.
DID YOU NOT LIKE IT?
.....

...HM?
BUT I'M NOT CUTE, SO...
...THE HAIRPIN WAS REALLY CUTE.
I KNOW, RIGHT!? IT WAS CHEAP, BUT NOT SHODDY AT ALL.
HMMMM?
I ACTUALLY REALLY LIKE THOSE THINGS.
BUT PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS TOLD ME THE THINGS THAT SUIT ME...
ARE PLAIN GENDERLESS OR BOYISH THINGS.
BUT YOU ARE CUTE, KARATSU SAN!!
WHEN I WAS STILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PEOPLE ALWAYS CALLED ME KARASU INSTEAD OF KARATSU.
HUH?
THEN, ONE DAY, IT CAME TO A GAME OF GIVING PEOPLE ANIMAL NAMES...
EVERYONE WERE RABBITS, CATS OR OTHER CUTE ANIMALS.
I WAS THE ONLY BLACK BIRD.

But...
That's just because her name sounds like "crow," and she's smart and gives off a cool vibe.
Was she kind of a smug elementary schooler?
I can't really imagine it...
MY FOLKS CALL ME A CROW, TOO, YOU KNOW.
EH?
'CAUSE I LIKE SPARKLY THINGS.
AND HOARDING THEM IN MY ROOM, MY NEST.
ORIBE-SAN...
YOU WERE ALWAYS SUCH A LOVELY BIRD.
AAH!
AMONG THE DARK UNI-FORMS...
ONLY ONE PERSON WORE COLOR—
ONLY YOU WERE SPARK-LING.

WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A LITTLE LOOPY.
Ah!
I GUESS YOU WOULD.
BUT...
EVEN WHEN OTHERS TALKED BEHIND YOUR BACK...
AS LONG AS YOU WORE WHAT YOU WANTED, YOU DIDN'T CARE.
I UNDER-STAND THAT IN MY BRAIN...
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE.
YOU'RE REALLY COOL, ORIBE-SAN.
I'VE BEEN SECRETLY ADMIRING THAT ABOUT YOU.

R-REALLY? YOU ADMIRE ME?
YES.
.....
A-A-AAH, OOH...
BLUSH
HA HA...
Wow, this girl.
I'm kind of happy.
She's so cute.
You're like my senpai in life
Say, why do you address me politely?

So cute.
AH, THIS IS CUTE!
THIS CURTAIN IS CUTE!
AH, LOOK!
THE DOTS FORM CATS SOMETIMES.
YOU'RE RIGHT!
THIS RUG LOOKS FLUFFY. I KINDA WISH I HAD A TAIL LIKE THAT.
KARATSU-SAN, IF YOU'RE EMBARRASSED WEARING CUTE STUFF...
WHAT IF YOU FURNISH YOUR ROOM WITH CURTAINS AND CUSHIONS?

I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT BEFORE, BUT...
THEN LET'S GO TO MY HOUSE TODAY!
I HAVE LOTS OF CUTE CLOTHES AND ACCESSO-RIES!
Blunt
I SEE...
MY FRIENDS COME OVER SOMETIMES, SO IT'D STILL BE EMBAR-RASSING.
HANGING OUT WITH PEOPLE CAN BE SO ANNOY-ING SOME-TIMES!!
WOW, ORIBE-SAN, I BET YOUR ROOM IS AMAZING!
I PUT ALL MY EARNINGS FROM MY JOB INTO IT!
I EVEN HAVE A CHANDELIER!
I HAVE A LONG DRESS, TOO, SO LET'S HAVE A FASHION SHOW!
I COULD LOOK AT IT, BUT NOT WEAR IT...
EEH!? WHY?
THE DESIGN WOULD DEFINITELY LOOK GOOD ON YOU!

IT'S A BIT...
EMBARRASSING.
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU CAN SAY THAT ABOUT ME, BUT...
Boo!
EH? WHAT'S GOING ON?
HUH? ORIBE-SAN!?
JUMP
.....
USING OR TOUCHING THEM MAKES ME HAPPY.
!
THAT ONLY YOU KNOW ABOUT.
IT'S NICE HAVING SECRETS
She really is cute.
WITH EVERYDAY ITEMS AND THINGS LIKE THAT...

NEXT CLASS IS GYM. WHAT A BOTHER.
.....
ding dong
AH, THE BELL! LET'S GO.

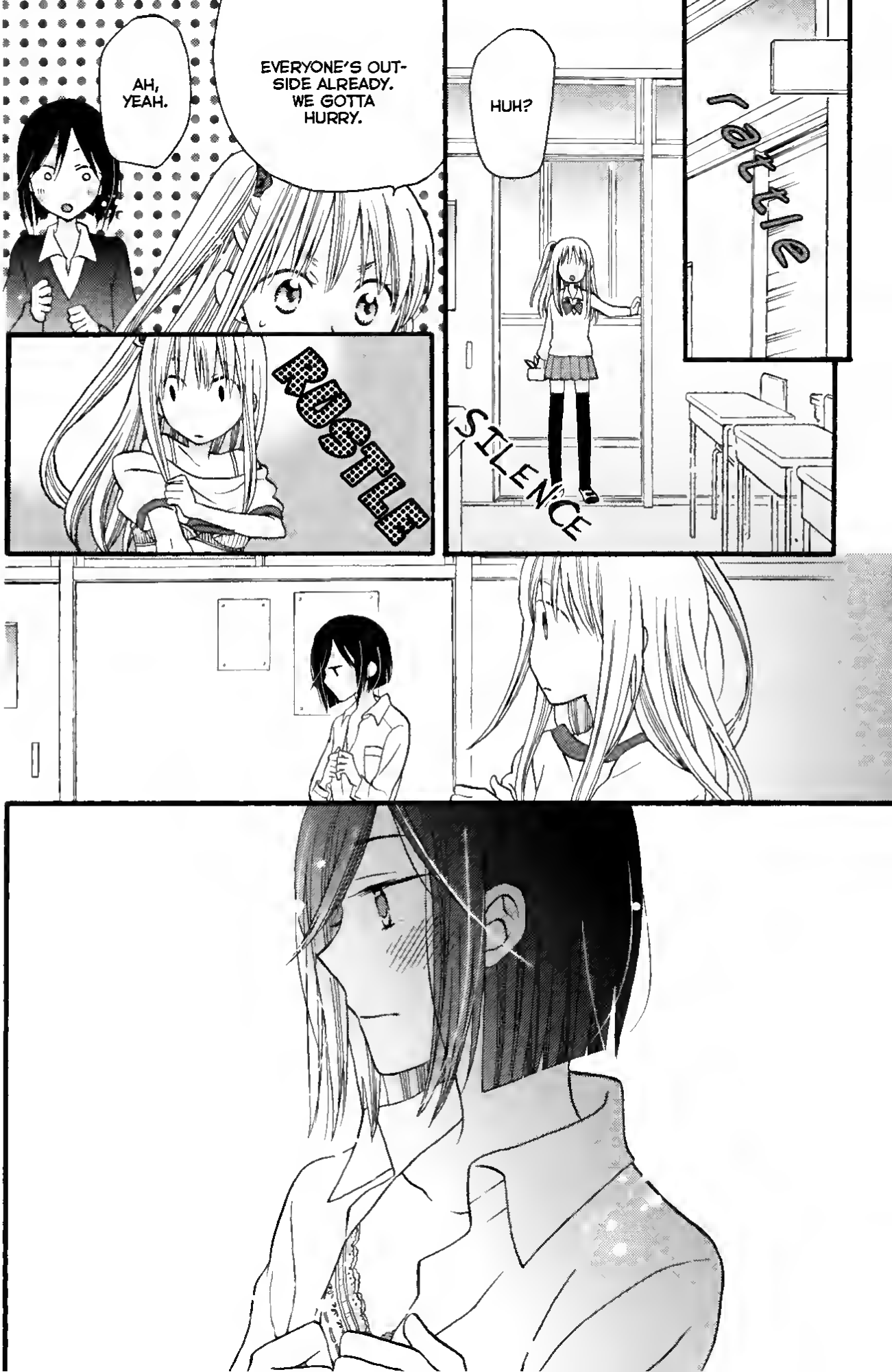
Karatsu-san...

KARATSU-SAN?

AH, SORRY.
I'M COMING.

with pretty embroidery and laces.
She'd look great in a pure, white dress.
A simple design that falls straight down

dum
dum
Ack!
If I could only see Karatsu-san dressed like that.
If...
dum
It would look amazing on her.
Maybe she'll do it, just for me.


AH, YEAH.
EVERYONE'S OUTSIDE ALREADY. WE GOTTA HURRY.
HUH?
RUSTLE
SILENCE

PULL
EH?
ORIBE-SAN...?

rattle
This is bad.
blush
whisper
YOU'RE CUTE...
NO...
This is bad, I can't control myself...
EH...?
PUSH
NO, STOP!

...AH...
S-
GULP
SORRY.
startled
I WON'T DO IT AGAIN, SO FORGIVE ME.
Scared

.....
run
clench
...GH!
haa
haah
haa
This can't go on.
These feelings...
I've come to want her.
haa

Because she's so lovely when she sparkles.
...But that's definitely bad.
AH.
ORIBE-SAN!
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, SINCE YOU SKIPPED GYM.

I want you now, but...

I know that I'd only be a bother to you.

HELLO, IS THIS THE BEAUTY PARLOR?
I'D LIKE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR TODAY...
COULD WE... WALK HOME TOGETHER?
SNUB
ORIBE-SAN...
I BORROWED THIS BOOK FROM YOU THE OTHER DAY...
Because I can't control myself anymore.
I don't want to make you cry again, so...
If you get close to me, I won't be able to stop.
I can't be friends with you anymore
turn...
Ah...
Karatsu-san would probably like this bag...

A jewel in an art museum.
She's like...
...Gh! Stop it!
SHAKE
She's prettier than anything I have, but...
I told myself I can't be friends with her!
MORNING, KARATSU!
HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOUR HAIR?
rattle
I can't lay my hands on her.
I have to be satisfied with just looking.
THAT HAIRPIN IS REALLY CUTE!
WEARING SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS UNUSUAL FOR YOU.
AH...
WHERE'D YOU BUY IT?

IT WAS
SOME-THING
ORIBE-SAN GAVE ME A WHILE AGO.
.....
AH, RIGHT...
IT DOESN'T REALLY SUIT YOU, TO BE HONEST, KARATSU.
shock
YEAH.
IT'S A BIT TOO CUTE FOR YOU.
WHAT YOU USUALLY HAVE IS FINE...
Y-
YEAH, I GUESS SO.
THUD

CUT IT OUT!!
IT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T STAND ME, RIGHT?
grab
DON'T HURT KARATSU-SAN BY TALKING DOWN ON HER!!
crying

WHAT...
APOLO-GIZE!
IT LOOKS WONDERFUL ON HER!
...GH.

I said I shouldn't.
I did my best holding back, but...
I have always...
THANK YOU, ORIBE-SAN...
loved cute things.
SORRY ABOUT BEFORE.
FOR SUDDENLY STRIPPING YOU.
STRI-...
NO, ME TOO.
I WAS OVERLY SELF-CONSCIOUS AND REACTED STRONGLY.
I MEAN, I WAS EMBARRASSED. SORRY.
BUT WHAT ABOUT ASIDE FROM EMBARRASSMENT?
EH?

WHAT IF WE WENT FURTHER SINCE I WANTED YOU TO BE MINE?

I FELT LIKE I SHOULD INCREASE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US FOR YOUR SAKE.
!?
EH...?
EH?
...!
PFF-HAH!

AH, GEEZ. KARATSU-SAN...
YOU'RE JUST TOO CUTE...

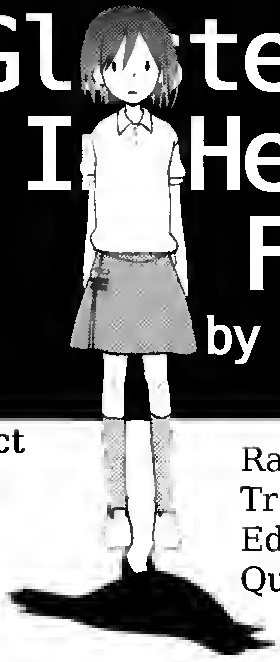
END

uween
BUT, BUT, BUT WE...!
WE WANT TO HANG OUT WITH YOU, TOO!
LATELY, ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS ORIBE!
WE'RE LONELY!!
Sorry we said mean things!
SO, WITH ALL THAT...
SHALL WE EAT OUR LUNCH WITH ALL OF US TOGETHER?
HM?
turn
HMM...
long pause...
...WHA--
WHAT?

SORRY, NO CAN DO.
IF YOU AREN'T CUTE, I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
ha ha ha
REALLY SORRY, OKAY?
THIS IS WHY PEOPLE HATE YOU!!
DIE, ORIBE!!
Aha.ha.
D!EEEE!!

A Crow With A Glistening Trinket In Her Jet-Black Feathers

by Yotsuhara Furiko



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